

PROTECTION & WELFARE COMMITTEE

April 2, 2013



Chairperson Greg Schopp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance: Trustees: Fred Albertz, Rory Holland and Greg Schopp. Also in attendance: Tim Semo, Fire Chief David Peterson, Deputy Chief Jim Wolf and Administrator Mark Johnsrud.

Statement of public notice – This meeting was posted and noticed according to law.

Approve Minutes of February 5, 2013

An Albertz/Holland motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the Protection and Welfare Committee meeting of February 5, 2013.

Discussion and Recommendation Amend 96 Animals – Chickens

Peter Hartz, 337 West Street, questioned the statement of the Village Administrator within the February 5th, 2013 minutes that raising chickens in the Village could be detrimental to property values. Hartz said that he called Associated Appraisal, the Village Assessor, for an opinion. The assessor said that raising chickens as a condition of property values has not been asked before. However, the assessor indicated that it could reduce property values if the raising of chickens was a nuisance. Associated Appraisal doesn't view a chicken coop any different than a shed.

Fred Albertz commented that he is not opposed amending the ordinance however, the number of birds should be regulated. Concerns of property owners should follow common courtesy and visibility of the birds is an issue. When birds are visible other property owners should be consulted. Watertown turned a chicken ordinance down last year. Maintenance is also important.

Rory Holland expressed support of an ordinance if it was similar to Green Bay's chicken ordinance. 25 feet from property line is important, as well as compliance with a three strike rule.

Greg Schopp explained that he had discussion with a number of people on this ordinance. Perception of chickens is the real issue here. Chickens are not pets they are classified as livestock. Chicken waste can be a problem.

Johnsrud suggested a proposed ordinance to reflect:

| <u>Open Coop</u> | | <u>Enclosed Coop</u> |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| \$25 | Annual License Fee | \$10 |
| Signature of Adjacent Property Owners Required | Permit | As Issue |
| 4 Hens | Number of Chickens | 6 Hens |
| 25 feet | Minimum Distance from Property Line | 25 feet |

Compliance and Regulation – Zoning Administrator

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Hartz stated that the license for an Open Coop is too high. Hartz also questioned the definition of an open versus enclosed coop. Johnsrud said that it is simply if the chicken can be seen from the property line it would be classified as an open coop. If the chicken is not visible then it is an enclosed coop.

Fred Albertz was not concerned about annual fee as there will not be many permits. Schopp suggested adding a status report on the ordinance 21 months after the chicken ordinance is enacted. Johnsrud questioned the issue of public health to include the bird flu. Holland suggested that a chicken permit could be revoked at any time by the Village.

A Holland/Albertz motion carried unanimously to recommend to the Village Board the Administrator's proposed chicken ordinance with an annual fee of \$20 for an open coop, a status report 21 months after the enactment of the ordinance and that any chicken coop permit could be revoked at any time.

Adjourn

A Holland/Semo motion carried unanimously to adjourn at 6:51 p.m.

Greg Schopp, Chair
Protection & Welfare

Disclaimer: These minutes are uncorrected, any corrections made thereto will be so noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.